

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions comprising:

a support member having a first curved flange end connector and forming a first hold for receiving a pin;

a plate assembly having at least one connection plate forming a second hole, and a second curved flange end connector;

wherein the curvature of the first curved flange end connector generally matches the curvature of the second curved flange end connector; ~~by providing two opposing support members having generally curved end connections that match the curvature of one another and~~

~~securing the first curved flange end connector to the second curved flange end connector the two opposing support members together such that the support member one support member~~
is allowed to rotate relative to the other support member plate assembly about the first and second curved flange end connectors connection when subject to extreme loading conditions.

15. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 14, where the curved ends of the two opposing support members are secured to one another via high-strength bolts.

16. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 14, where a shim is placed between the curved end connections of the two opposing support members to achieve a predictable slip threshold.

17. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading

conditions of claim 14, where the two opposing supporting members are connected to one another via a pin connection.

18. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of brass.

19. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of steel.

20. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of teflon.

21. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of bronze.